

# Flow of Genetic Information

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- Elements

- Nucleic acid

- DNA

- building block
    - structure & organization
    - genome

- RNA

- building block
    - types

- Amino acid

- building block
  - side chain
  - protein

- Central Dogma of Molecular Biology

- Replication : DNA to DNA

- Replication : RNA to RNA

- Transcription : DNA to RNA

- RNA processing

- Translation : RNA to protein

- genetic code

- Dogma, revisited

- Horizontal transference

- transformation
  - conjugation
  - transduction

# Elements

- two monomers and two polymers

- nucleic acids

- DNA : stores information

- RNA : transmits information

- amino acids

- protein : catalytic capacity

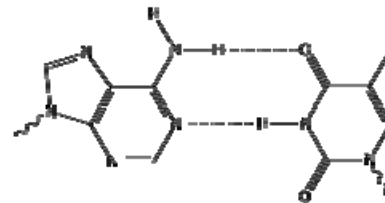
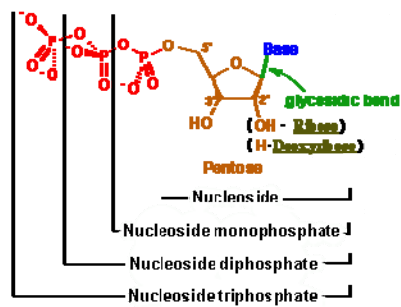
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Nucleic acids

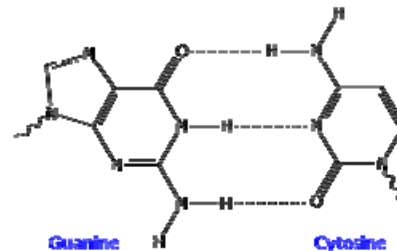
# Nucleic acid : DNA

- main function
- store information



Adenine

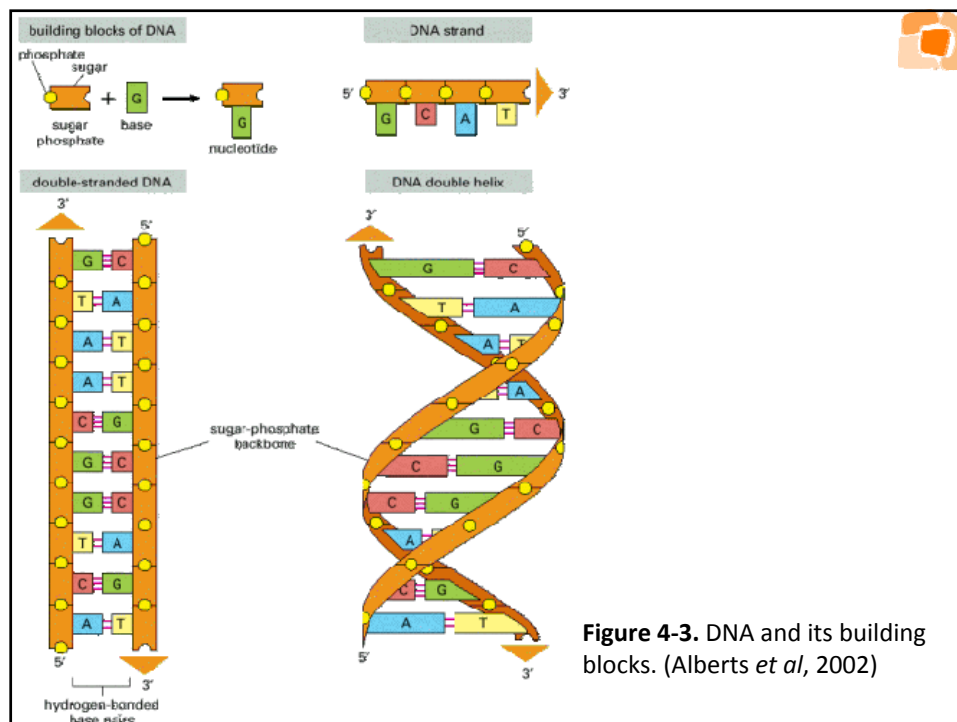
Thymine



Guanine

Cytosine

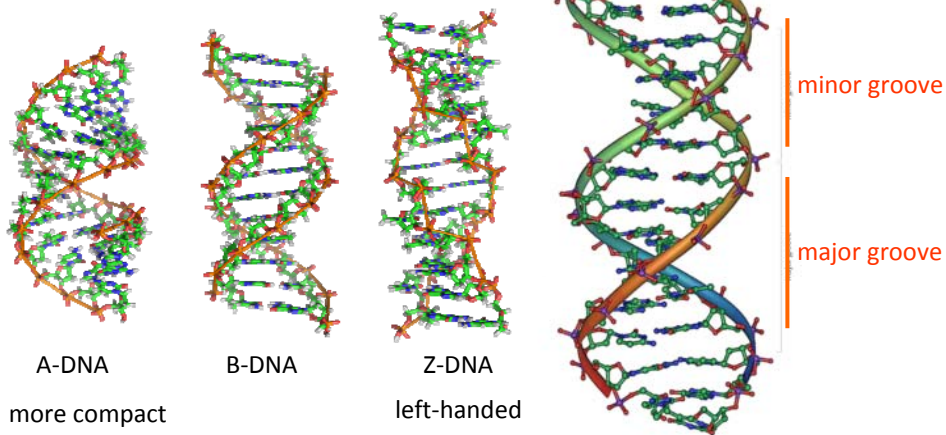
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**Figure 4-3.** DNA and its building blocks. (Alberts *et al*, 2002)

## structure and organization

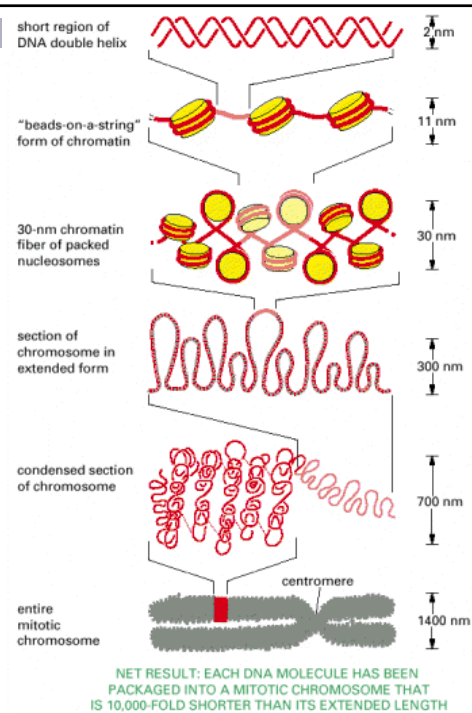
### ■ double helix



**Figure 4-55.**  
Chromatin  
packing  
(Alberts *et al*,  
2002)

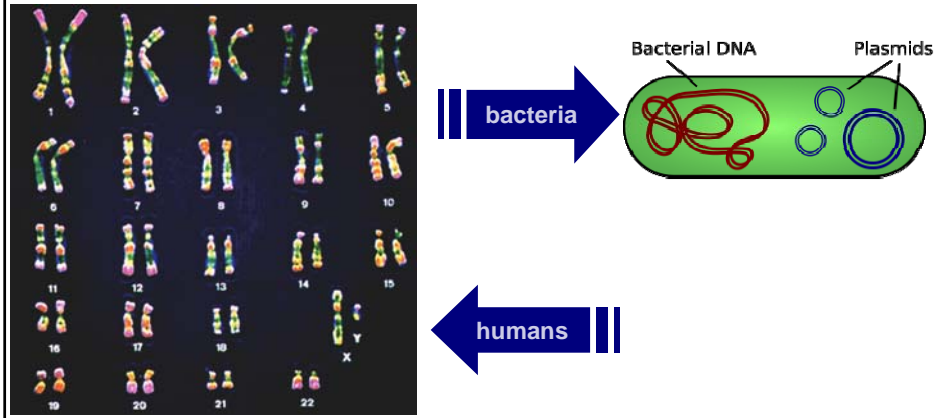
### ■ chromatin : supercoiling

### ■ chromosome

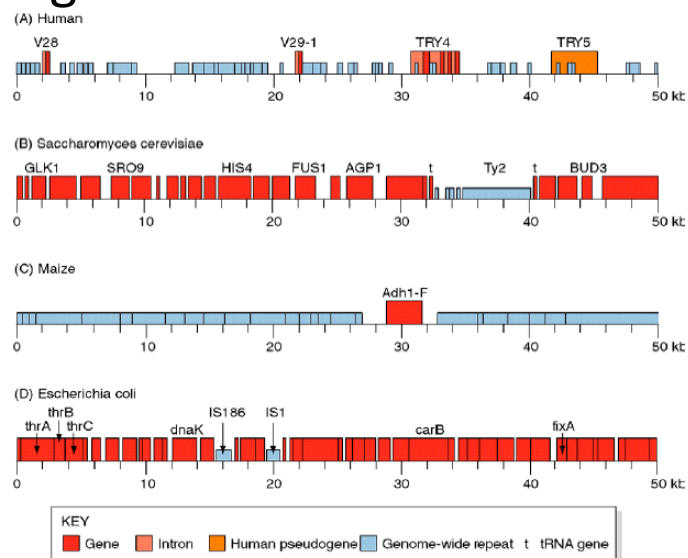


# genome

- whole genetic material *necessary* for the survival of a given cell

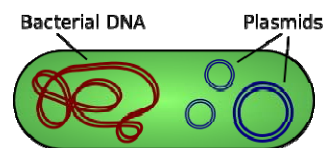


## genome : chromosomes



## genome : plasmids

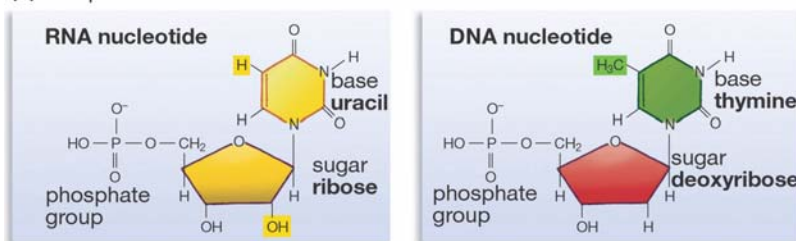
- autonomous genetic elements
- not essential –(generally) bacteria survives without
- interesting properties
  - survival on a special condition
  - pathogenicity island
- characteristic copy number



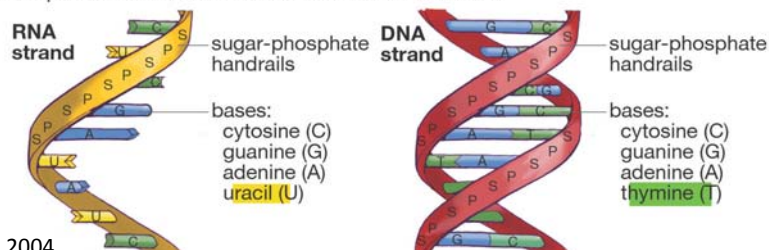
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## Nucleic acid : RNA




(a) Comparison of RNA and DNA nucleotides



(b) Comparison of RNA and DNA three-dimensional structure



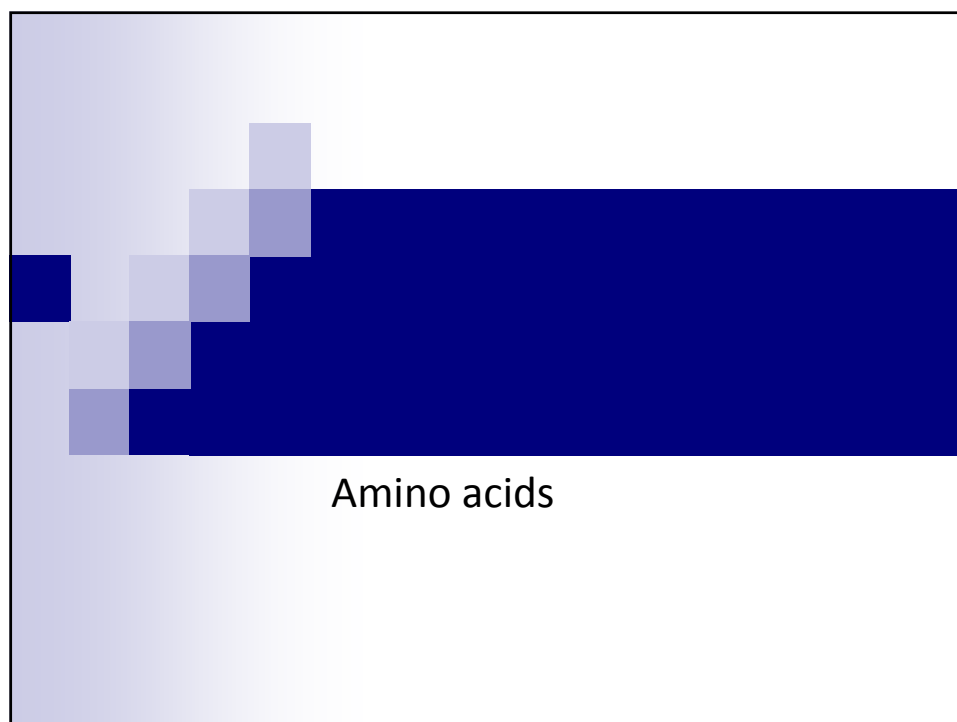
Krogh, 2004

Type of RNA	Functions in	Function
Messenger RNA (mRNA) 	Nucleus, migrates to ribosomes in cytoplasm	Carries DNA sequence information to ribosomes
Transfer RNA (tRNA) 	Cytoplasm	Provides linkage between mRNA and amino acids; transfers amino acids to ribosomes
Ribosomal RNA (rRNA) 	Cytoplasm	Structural component of ribosomes

microRNA, has been shown to regulate gene expression.

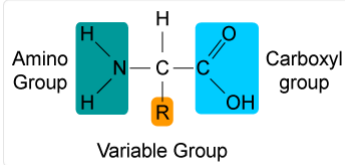
Krogh, 2004

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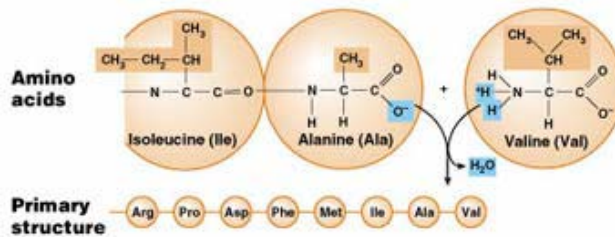


# Amino acid : building block

General structure of Amino Acids

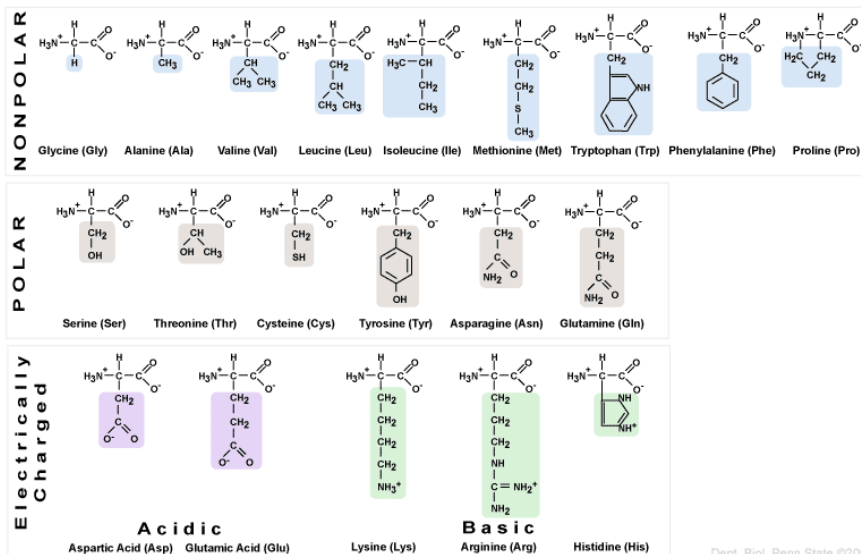


Dept. Biol. Penn State ©2002



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# Amino acid : side chain



Dept. Biol. Penn State ©2002



# Amino acid : protein

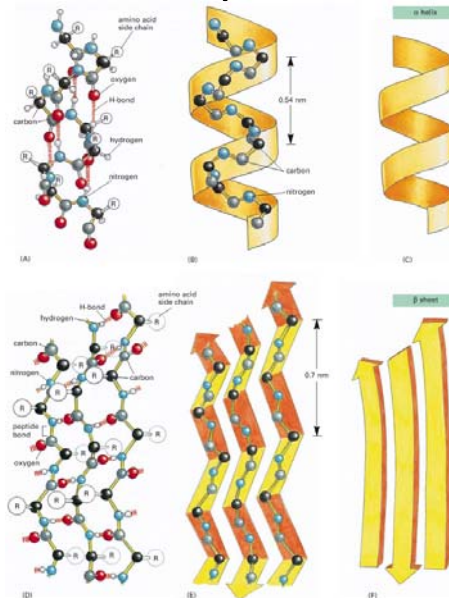
## ■ 2ary structure

- alpha helix
- beta sheet

## ■ 3ary structure

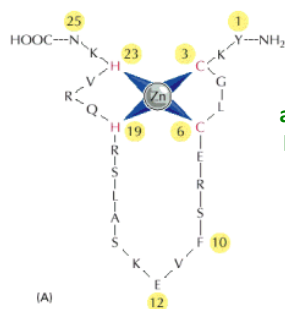
- domains

The sequence of amino acids determines the structure, and therefore the function, of a protein.

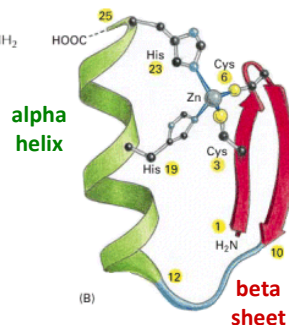


**Figure 3-9.** The regular conformation of the polypeptide backbone observed in the  $\alpha$  helix and the  $\beta$  sheet. (Alberts *et al*, 2002)

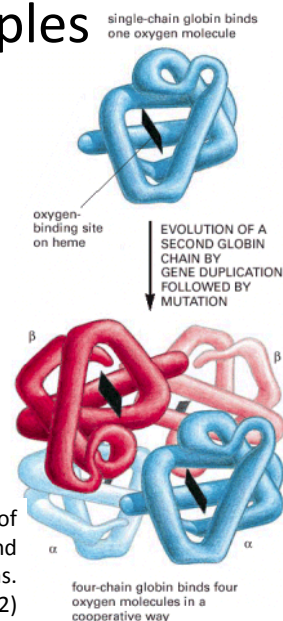
# Amino acid : examples



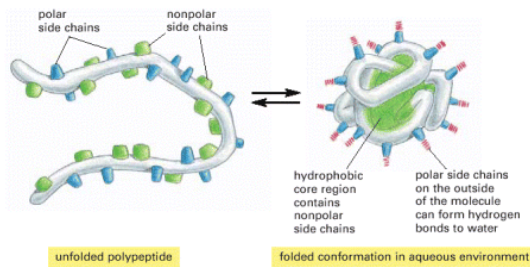
**Figure 7-17.** One type of zinc finger protein. (Alberts *et al*, 2002)



**Figure 7-115.** A comparison of the structure of one-chain and four-chain globins. (Alberts *et al*, 2002)



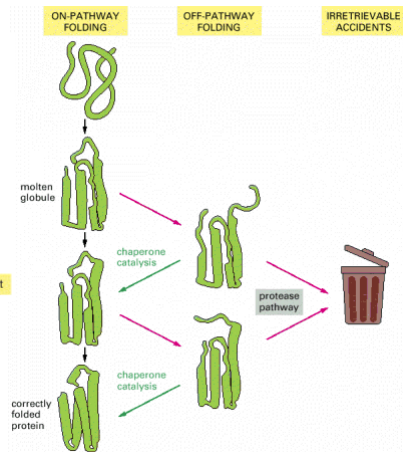
# Amino acid : protein and function



**Figure 3-6.** How a protein folds into a compact conformation. (Alberts *et al*, 2002)

Correct folding is critical for correct function

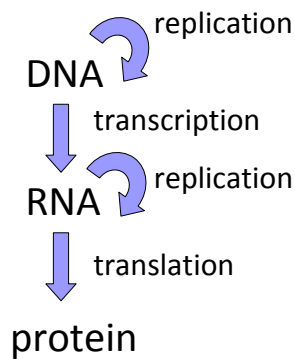
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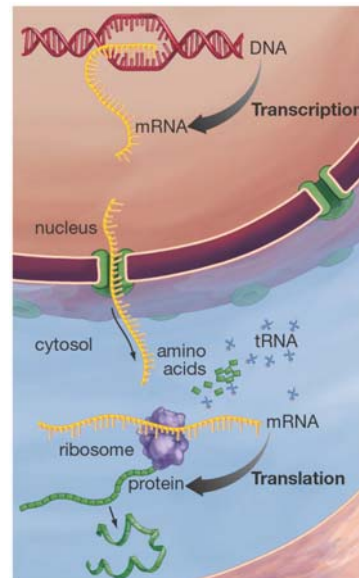
**Figure 6-82.** A current view of protein folding. (Alberts *et al*, 2002)

Central Dogma of Molecular Biology

# Central Dogma of Molecular Biology

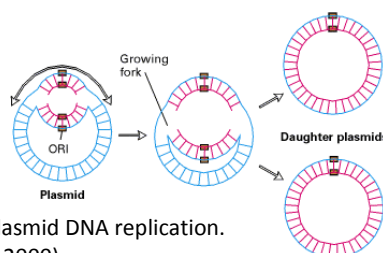


Francis Crick, *Ideas on protein synthesis*. **Symp Soc Exp Biol.**, 1956

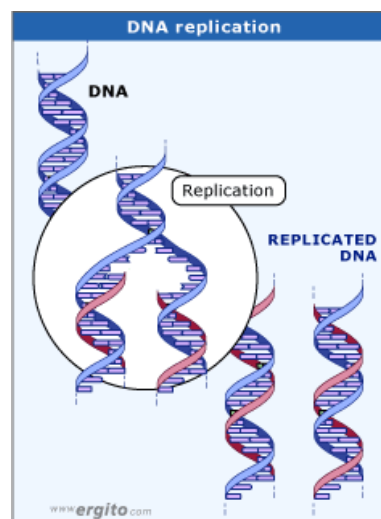


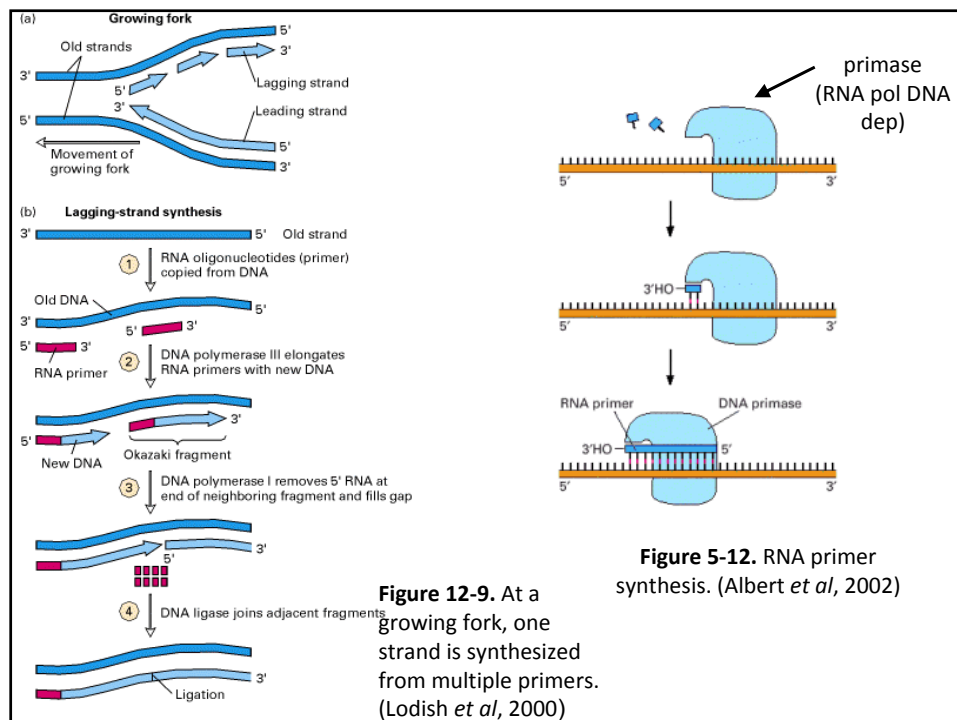
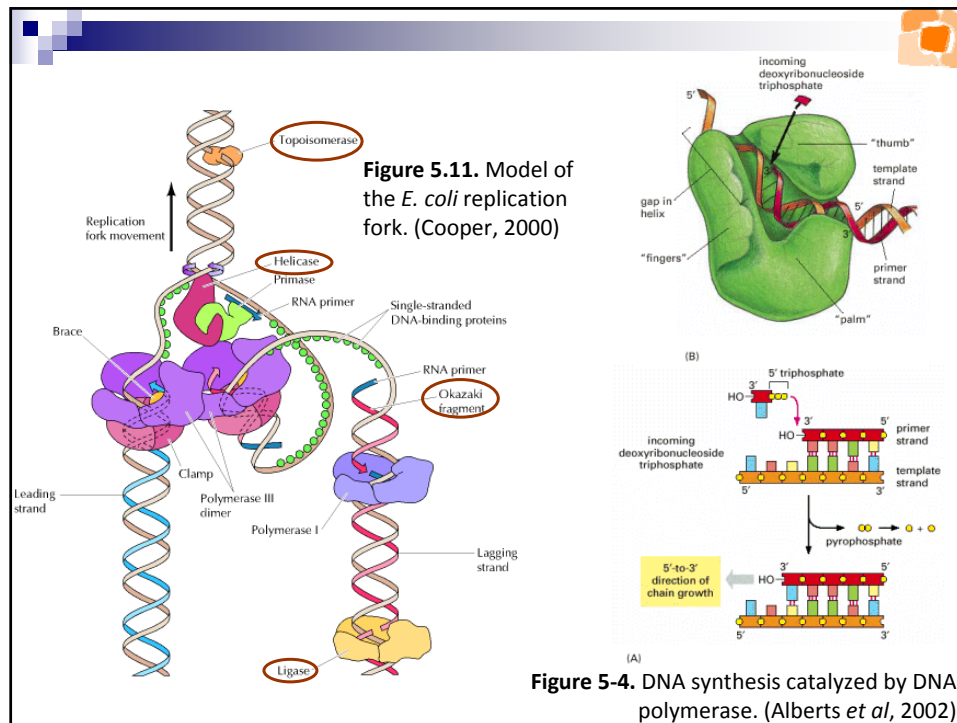
## Replication : DNA to DNA

- DNA polymerase DNA dependent
- DNA nucleotides
- many enzymes more!
  - helicase, topoisomerase, etc

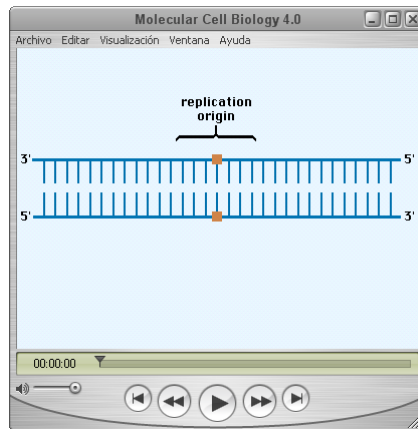


**Figure 7-2.** Plasmid DNA replication. (Lodish *et al*, 2000)





## movie : replication



Ch12anim1. Lodish *et al*, 2000

Flow of Genetic Information

DNA   
 ↓ replication   
 ↓ transcription   
 RNA   
 ↓ replication   
 ↓ translation   
 protein

## Replication : RNA to RNA

- ☐ RNA polymerase RNA dependent
- ☐ RNA viruses
  - have RNA as information storage
  - live in the *RNA world*
- ☐ use cell machinery

Flow of Genetic Information

DNA → replication  
 ↓ transcription  
 RNA → replication  
 ↓ translation  
 protein

# Transcription : DNA to RNA

- ☐ RNA polymerase DNA dependent
- ☐ RNA nucleotides
- ☐ many enzymes more!
  - helicase, topoisomerase, etc
- ☐ transcription factors : regulation

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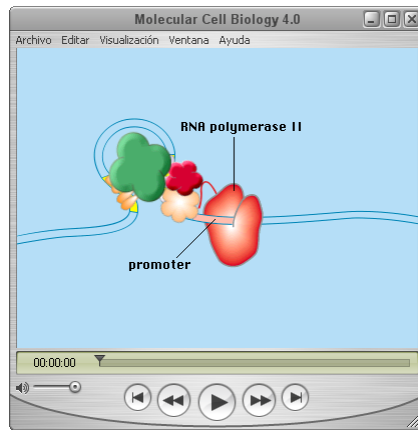
DNA → replication  
 ↓ transcription  
 RNA → replication  
 ↓ translation  
 protein

# Transcription : DNA to RNA

(A)

**Figure 6-7.** DNA transcription produces a single-stranded RNA molecule that is complementary to one strand of DNA. (Alberts *et al*, 2002)

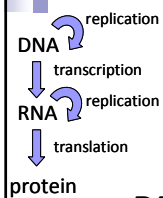
## movie : transcription



Ch4anim1. Lodish *et al*, 2000

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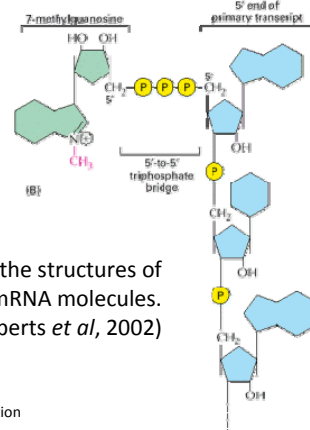
## RNA processing



- mRNA gets processed, mainly in eukaryotes

□ 5'-capping

- protection from degradation



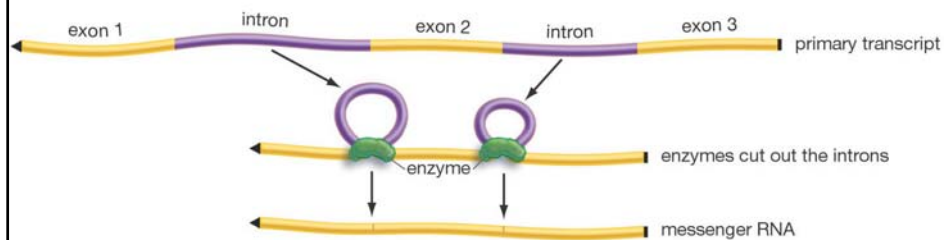
**Figure 6-22.** A comparison of the structures of procaryotic and eucaryotic mRNA molecules.  
(Alberts *et al*, 2002)

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# RNA processing

- mRNA gets processed, mainly in eukaryotes

- splicing



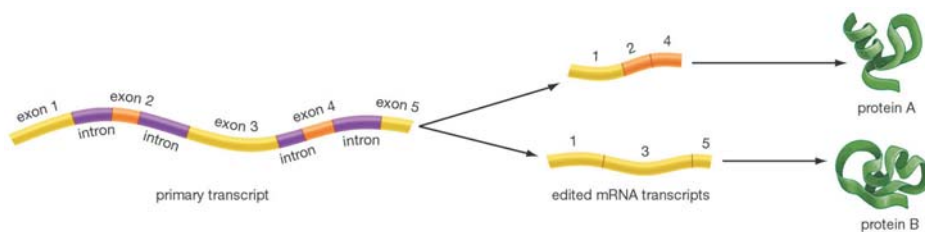
Krogh, 2004

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# RNA processing

- mRNA gets processed, mainly in eukaryotes

- alternative splicing



Krogh, 2004

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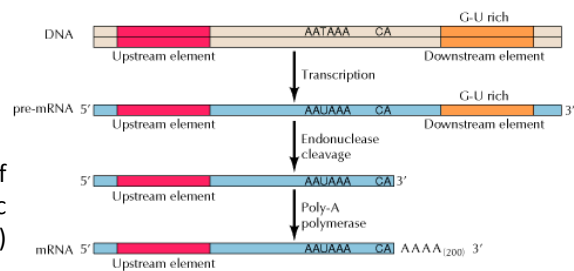


# RNA processing

- mRNA gets processed, mainly in eukaryotes

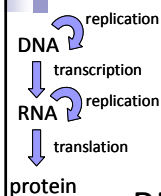
- 3'-polyadenylation

- protection from degradation



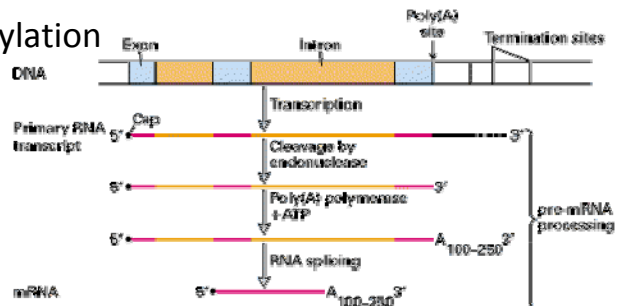
**Figure 6.40.** Formation of the 3' ends of eukaryotic mRNAs. (Cooper, 2000)

# RNA processing



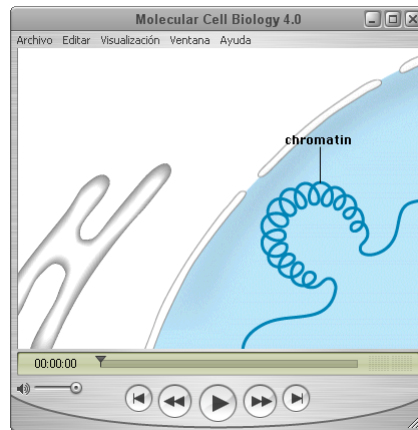
- mRNA gets processed, mainly in eukaryotes

- 5'-capping
- splicing, alternative splicing
- 3'-polyadenylation



**Figure 11-7.** Overview of mRNA processing in eukaryotes. (Lodish *et al*, 2000)

## movie : RNA processing

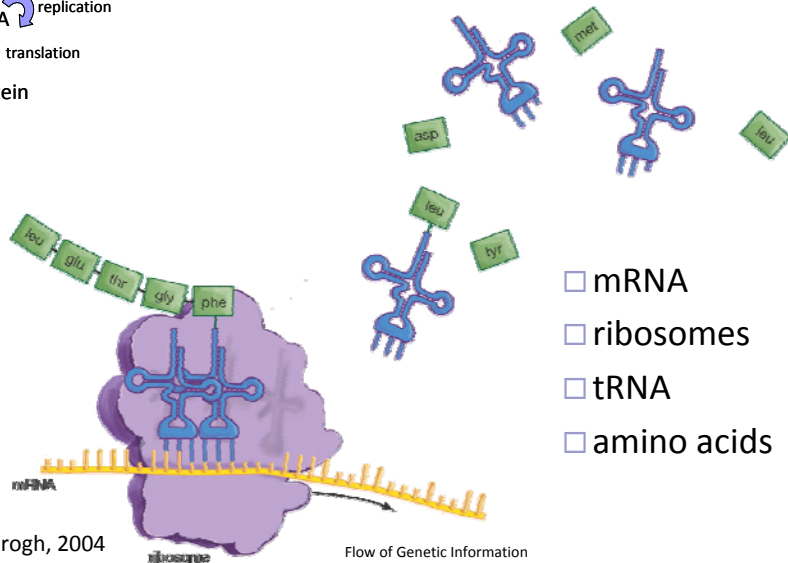


Ch11anim1. Lodish *et al*, 2000

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## Translation : RNA to protein

DNA  
↓ replication  
transcription  
RNA  
↓ replication  
translation  
protein



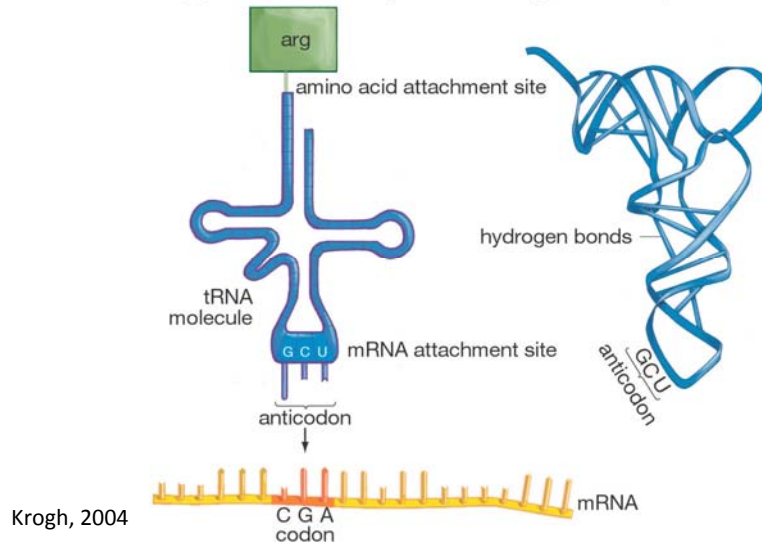
Krogh, 2004

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# Translation : RNA to protein

(a) Transfer RNA binding

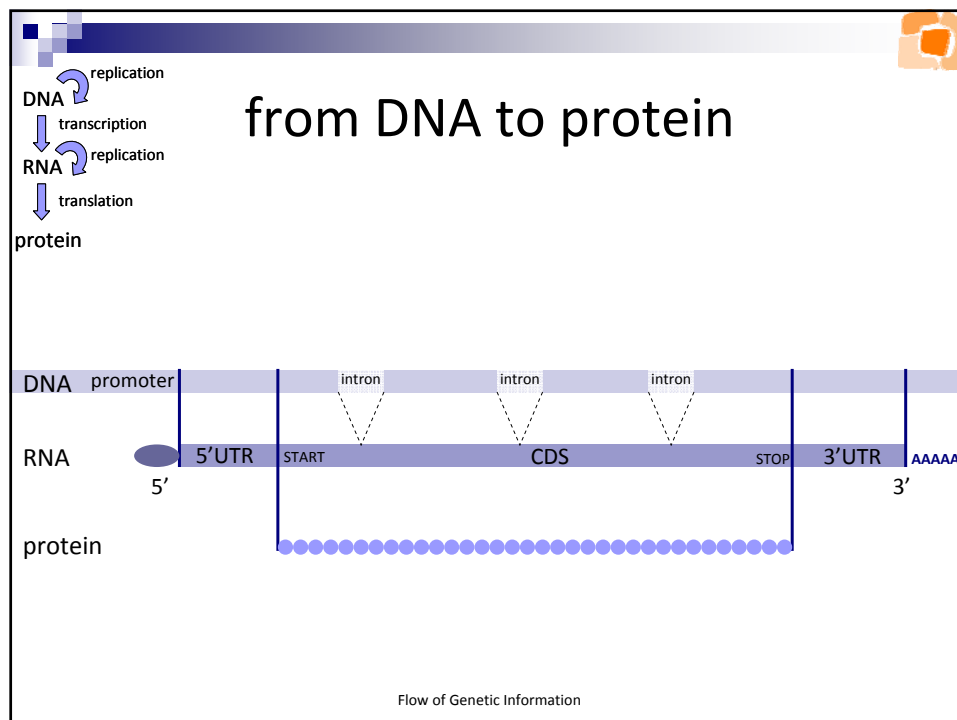
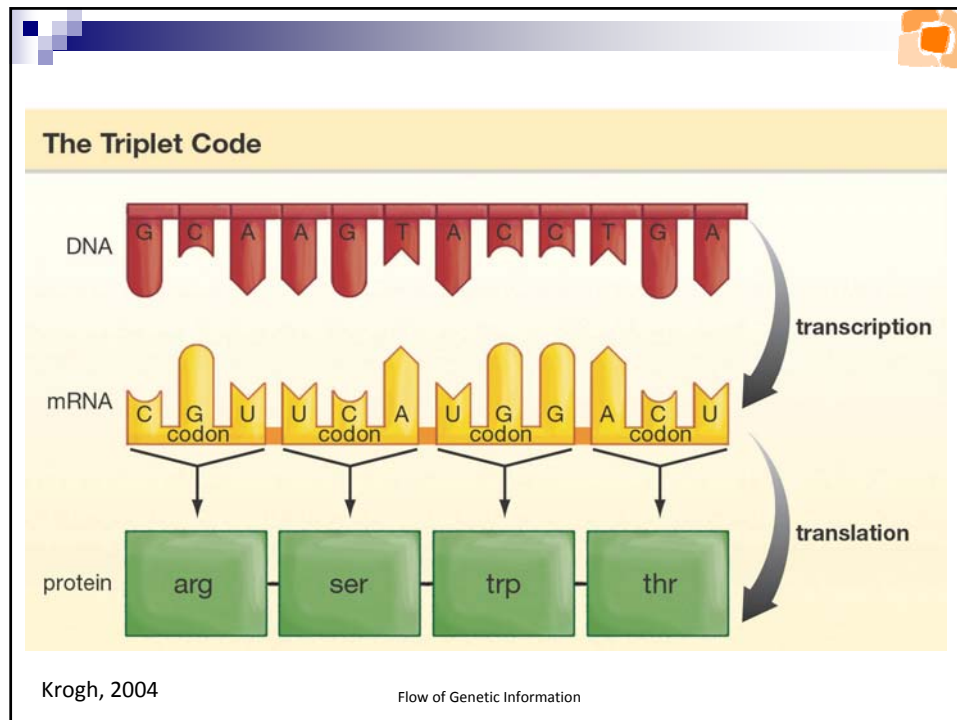
(b) The 3-D shape of tRNA



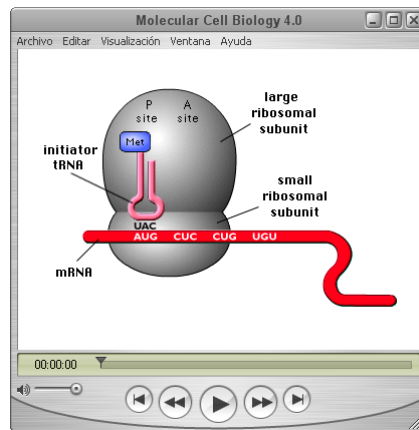
# Translation : genetic code

		second base				
		U	C	A	G	
first base	U	UUU } phe UUC } UUA } leu UUG }	UCU } ser UCC } UCA } UCG }	UAU } tyr UAC } UAA <b>Stop</b> UAG <b>Stop</b>	UGU } cys UGC } UGA <b>Stop</b> UGG } trp	third base
	C	CUU } leu CUC } CUA } CUG }	CCU } pro CCC } CCA } CCG }	CAU } his CAC } CAA } gln CAG }	CGU } arg CGC } CGA } CGG }	
	A	AUU } ile AUC } AUA } AUG <b>met (start)</b>	ACU } thr ACC } ACA } ACG }	AAU } asn AAC } AAA } lys AAG }	AGU } ser AGC } AGA } arg AGG }	
	G	GUU } val GUC } GUA } GUG }	GCU } ala GCC } GCA } GCG }	GAU } asp GAC } GAA } glu GAG }	GGU } gly GGC } GGA } GGG }	

Krogh, 2004



## movie : traduction

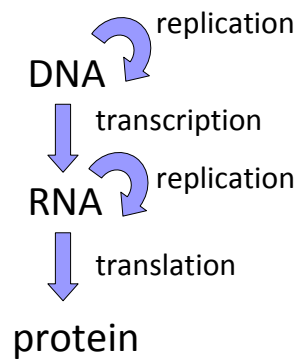


Ch4anim3. Lodish *et al*, 2000

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Dogma, revisited

# Dogma, revisited

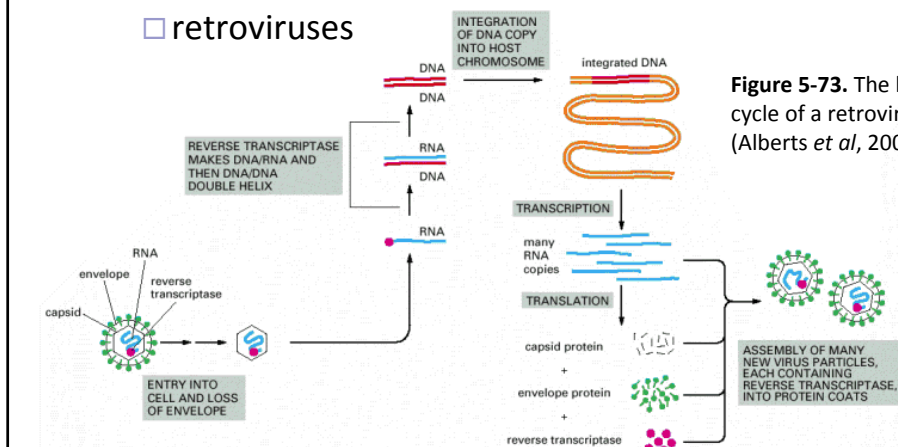
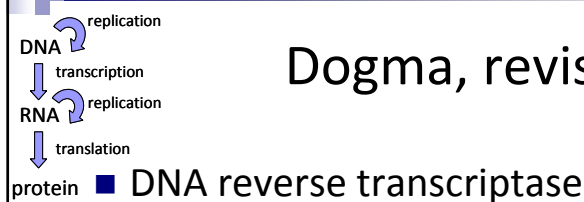


As it turned out, the use of the word **dogma** caused almost more trouble than it was worth.... I used the word the way I myself thought about it, not as most of the world does, and simply applied it to a **grand hypothesis** that, however plausible, had **little direct experimental support**.

-Francis Crick, What Mad Pursuit, 1988

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# Dogma, revisited



**Figure 5-73.** The life cycle of a retrovirus. (Alberts *et al*, 2002)

DNA ↺ replication  
 ↓ transcription  
 RNA ↺ replication  
 ↓ translation  
 protein

■ DNA reverse transcriptase

□ telomeres

# Dogma, revisited

parental strand  
3'  
TTGGGGTTGGGGTTGGGGTTG  
5'  
AACCC

incomplete, newly synthesized lagging strand

TELOMERASE BINDS

TELOMERASE EXTENDS 3' END (RNA-templated DNA synthesis)

COMPLETION OF LAGGING STRAND BY DNA POLYMERASE (DNA-templated DNA synthesis)

3'  
TTGGGGTTGGGGTTGGGGTTGGGGTTGGGGTTG  
5'  
AACCC

telomerase with bound RNA template

direction of telomere synthesis

DNA polymerase

(A) 1 μm

(B) t loop, 30-nm chromatin fiber, euchromatin, heterochromatin

**Figure 5-43.** Telomere replication. (Alberts *et al*, 2002)

**Figure 5-44.** The t-loops at the end of mammalian chromosomes. (Alberts *et al*, 2002)

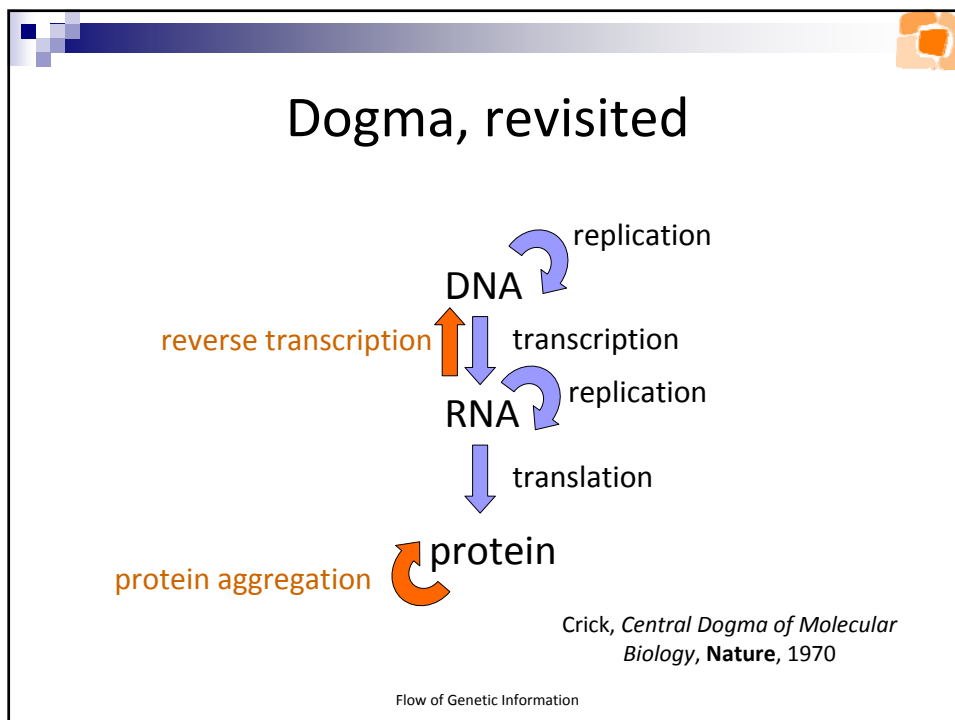
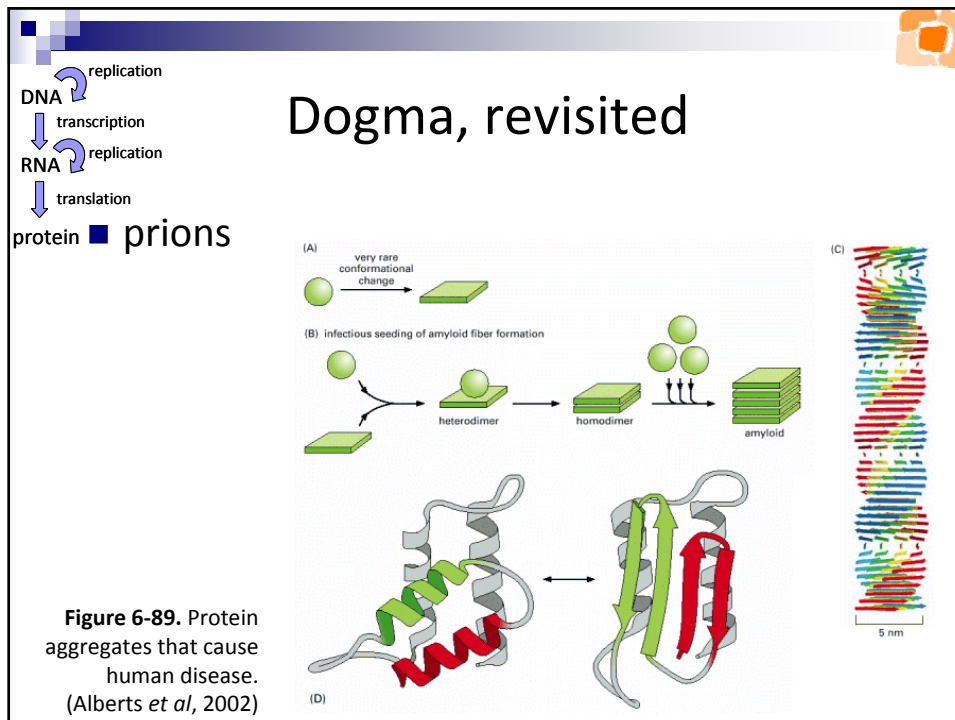
## movie : telomerase

3'  
5'  
leading strand  
RNA primer  
lagging strand  
3'  
5'  
chromosome end: telomere

00:00:00

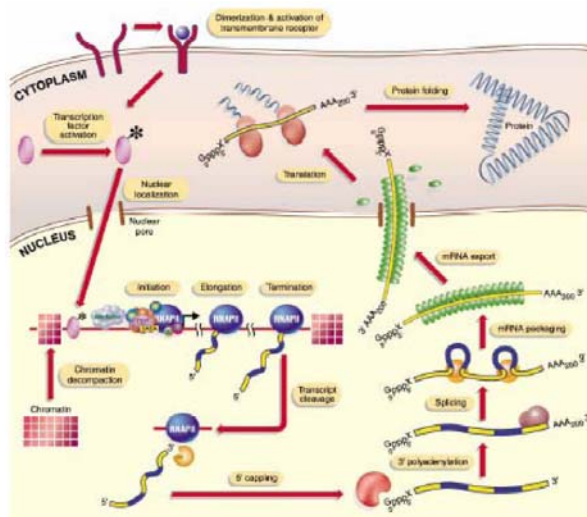
Ch12anim5. Lodish *et al*, 2000

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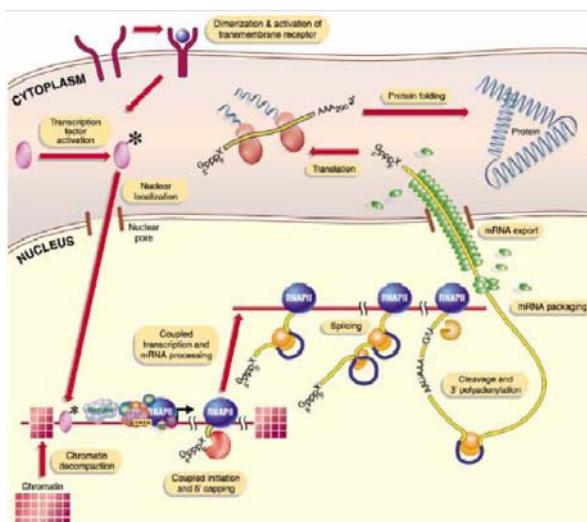


## Dogma's overview



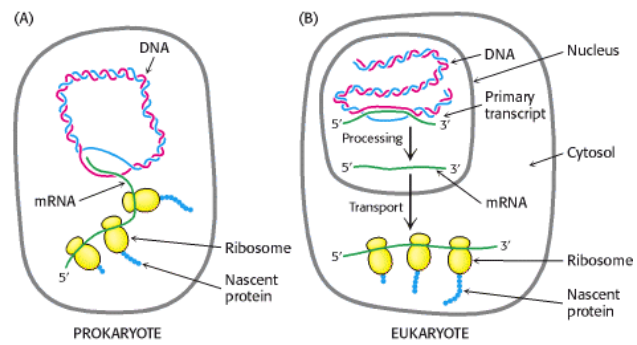
- ☐ static
- ☐ stepwise
- ☐ simplistic

## Dogma's overview



- ☐ dynamic
- ☐ continuous reactions
- ☐ complex

## transcription and translation



**Figure 28.15.** Transcription and Translation. (Berg *et al*, 2002)

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Horizontal transference

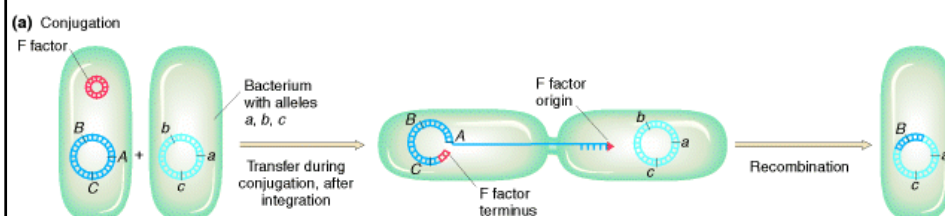
# Horizontal transference

- special in prokaryotes
- transformation
- conjugation
- transduction

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# Horizontal transference

- conjugation
  - F plasmid & *tra* genes
  - pilus



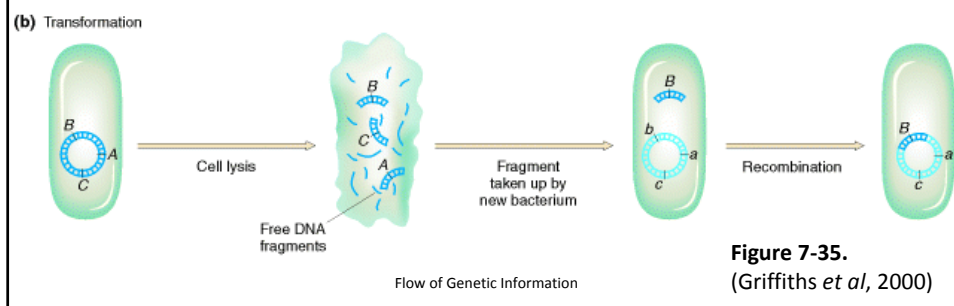
**Figure 7-35.**  
(Griffiths *et al*, 2000)

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# Horizontal transference

## ■ transformation

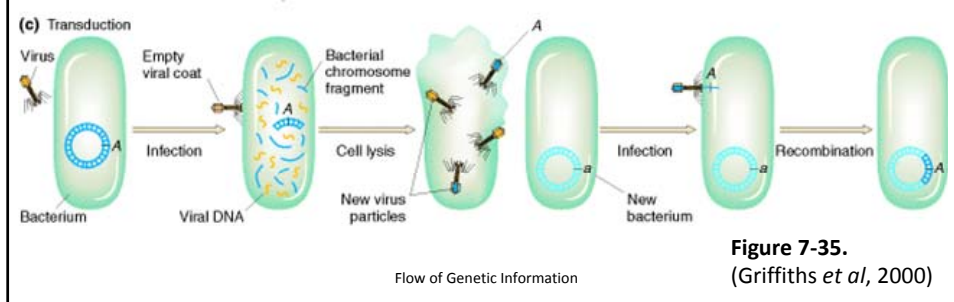
- bacteria recombines free DNA as its own



# Horizontal transference

## ■ transduction

- phage lysis
- phage encapsulates bacterial DNA



## more

- [vcell.ndsu.edu](http://vcell.ndsu.edu)
  - transcription
  - mRNA processing

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## sources

- *Alberts et al, Molecular Biology of the Cell, Garland Science, 4th ed, 2002*
- *Lodish et al, Molecular Cell Biology, Freeman & Co., 4th ed., 2000*
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